



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HD
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/579,894	05/19/2006	Ko Watanabe	13372/22	3483
23838	7590	11/23/2007	EXAMINER LYJAK, LORI LYNN	
KENYON & KENYON LLP 1500 K STREET N.W. SUITE 700 WASHINGTON, DC 20005			ART UNIT 3612	PAPER NUMBER
MAIL DATE 11/23/2007		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/579,894	WATANABE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Lori L. Lyjak	3612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 May 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 10-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 10-14, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 May 2006 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed January 1, 2006 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document; each non-patent literature publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 13, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kronner et al. 2002/0021015.

Regarding claim 13, Watanaba et al. '008 discloses a mounting structure for a vehicle battery pack, comprising a body with a floor panel, a first seat provided on said floor panel, a second seat provided on a vehicle rear side of the first seat, and a vehicle battery pack provided under said first seat, wherein said vehicle battery pack includes a battery main body unit and a device until, and said device unit is provided on the vehicle rear side relative to said battery main body unit.

Regarding claim 14, Watanaba et al. '008 discloses the mounting structure for a vehicle battery pack, wherein said distance from a bottom of said seat to a top of said device unit is greater than a distance from the bottom surface of said first seat to a top of said battery main body unit.

Regarding claim 17, Watanaba et al. '008 discloses the mounting structure for a vehicle battery pack, wherein the top of said device unit is substantially level with said floor panel on the vehicle rear side relative to said device unit.

Regarding claim 18, Watanaba et al. '008 discloses the mounting structure for a vehicle battery pack, wherein said first seat is a front seat.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over watanabe et al. 4,514,008 in view of Kronner et al. 2002/0021015.

Regarding claim 10, Watanaba et al. '008 discloses a vehicle (M) comprising a body with a floor panel (1), a seat (10) provided on said floor panel, wherein said floor panel has a tunnel (2) extending from a vehicle front portion to a vehicle rear portion of said body, and a rocker provided on a side of said floor panel to extend parallel to said tunnel.

However, Watanaba et al. '008 does not show a vehicle battery pack provided under said seat and a protection member provided on a vehicle rear side relative to said vehicle battery pack and protecting the vehicle battery pack.

Kronner et al. '015 teaches a vehicle battery pack (10) provided under said seat (12) and a protection member (22) provided on a vehicle rear side relative to said vehicle battery pack and protecting the vehicle battery pack.

Regarding claim 10, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the vehicle of Watanaba et al. '008 with a vehicle battery pack under the seat, as taught by Kronner et al. '015, in order to place the battery that has been previously mounted in the engine compartment in the passenger compartment.

Regarding claim 11, Watanaba et al. '008, as modified, discloses the mounting structure for a vehicle battery pack, wherein said protection member is fastened to said body.

Regarding claim 12, Watanaba et al. '008, as modified, discloses the mounting structure for a vehicle battery pack, wherein said seat is a front seat.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 15 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lori L. Lyjak whose telephone number is 571-272-6658. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Dayoan can be reached on 571-272-6659. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Lori L. Lyjak/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3612

lll
November 17, 2007